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GODS VVARNING TO HIS
R. people of ENGLAND. B.

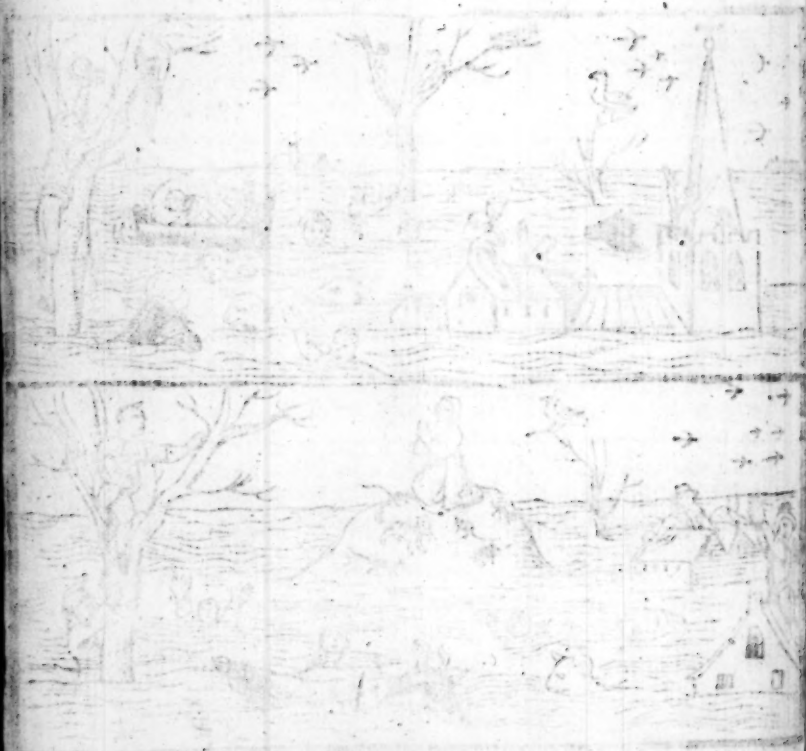
BY THE GREAT OVERFLOWING OF THE
Waters or Floudes lately hapned in *South-wales*, and many other places.
Wherein is declared the great losses, and wonderfull da-
mages, that hapned thereby: by the drowning of many Townes and Vil-
lages, to the viter vndoing of many thousandes of people.



At London printed for W. Barley, and Io. Bayly, and are to be folde
in Gracious Street. 1607.

GODS WARNING TO THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND.

OF THE GREAT OVERTHROWING OF THE
 Whereto is declared the great losses, and woe
 which shall befall the people of England, if they
 do not amend their lives, and turn to God.



At London Printed for W. B. and J. B. and are to be sold
 in the Strand near St. Dunstons Church.

Gods Warning to his people of England,



ANY are the dombe
warninges of Distruction,
which the Almighty God hath
lately scourged this our King-
dome with; And many more
are the threatening Tokens,
of his heauy wrath extended
toward vs: All which in blee-
ding hearts, may inforce vs to

put on the true garment of Repentance, and like vnto
the Niniuits, vnfainedly sollicite the sweet mercies of our
most louing God: Therefore let vs now call to remem-
brance the late grisious and most lamentable Plagues
of Pestilence, wherein the wrath of God toke from vs
so many thousandes of our friendes, kindred and ac-
quaintance: let vs also call to remembrance the most
wicked and pretended malice, of the late Papisticall
Conspiracie of Traytors, that with powder practised
the subuersion of this beautifull Kingdome: And
lastly let vs fix our eyes vpon these late swellings of
the outrageous Waters, which of late now hapned in
diuers partes of this Realme, together with the ouer-
flowing of the Seas in diuers and sundry places there-
of: whose fruitfull vales, being now ouerwhelmed and
drowned with these most vnsfortunat and vnseasona-
ble salt waters, doe laye the great Barrennes, and

Famine to ensue after it, (unless the Almighty God of his great infinite mercy and godnesse doe prevent it.) But now ob England, be not overcome with thine own folly: Be not blinded with the overmuch securitie of thy selfe, neither thinke thou thy selfe in thine owne sinne: For since the generall dissolution of the whole World by Water: in the time of Noy, neuer the like Inundation or watry punishment then hapned now here related, to the great griefe of all Christian hearers, as by this sequell it shall beare appeare.

Upon Tuesday being the 20. of January last past, 1607. in diuers places aswell in the Westerne partes of England, as also in diuers other places of this Realme: there hapned such an overflowing of Waters, such a violent swelling of the Seas, and such forcible breaches made into the firme Land: namely into the bolsones of these countries following, What is to say, in the Counties of Gloucester, Sommerfet, together with the Counties of Munmoth, Glamorgan, Carmarthen, and diuers and sundry other places of South-wales the like neuer in the memory of man, bath euer bin scene or heard of: The suddaine terroz whereof strooke such an amazed feare into the hearts of all the inhabitants, of those partes, that euery one prepared himselfe ready to entertaine the last Period of his liues Destruction: Deming it altogether to be a second deluge: as an vniuersall, punishment by Water.

For vpon the Tuesday being the 20. of January last, as aforesaid, about nine of the clocke in the morning, the Windes being most fairely and brightly sped, many of the Inhabitantes of those Countreys before mentioned, prepared themselves to their affaires, some to one business, some to another: euery man according to his calling. As the Plowmen setting forth their cattle to their labours, the Shepheardes feeding of their flockes, the Farmers ouersieing of their grounds, and
looking;

looking to their Castles sitting therein, and so every one
 imployed in his busines, as occasion required. Then
 they might see and perceiue afar of, as if were in the
 Element, huge and mighty hills of water, tumbling
 one ouer another, in such sort as if the greatest moun-
 taines in the world, had ouerwhelmed the lowe Wa-
 lyes of sparry grownes. Sometimes it so dazzled
 the eyes of many of the Spectatores, that they ima-
 gined it had bin some fogge or miste, coming with
 great swiftnesse towards them, and with such a smoke,
 as if Mountaines were all on fire: and to the view of
 some it seemed as if millions of thousands of Arrowes
 had bin shot forth all at one time, which came in such
 swiftnesse, as it was verily thought, that the fowles
 of the Ayre could scarce fly so fast, such was the threat-
 ning furyes thereof.

But as soon as the people of those Countries, percei-
 ued that it was the violence of the Waters of the ra-
 ging Seas, and that they began to exceed the compasses
 of their accustomed boundes, and making so furiously
 towards them: happy were they that could make the
 best, and most speed away many of them, leaving all
 their goods and substance, to the merclesse Waters,
 being glad to escape away with life themselves: But so
 violent and swift were the outrageous waves, that pur-
 sued one another, with such vehemencie, and the wa-
 ters multiplying so much in so short a time, that in
 lesse then five houres space, most part of those countreys
 (and especially the places which lay lowe) were all o-
 uerflownen, and many hondreds of people both men wo-
 men, and childzen were then quite deuoured, by these
 outrageous Waters, such was the furie of the Waves,
 of the Seas, the one of them dyping the other so:
 worras with such force and swiftnesse: that it is almost
 incredible for any to belauie the same: except such as
 tasted of the smart thereof, and such as beheld the

same, with their eyes: Pay more, the Farmers, Past-
handmen, and Shepherds, might beholde their goodly
flockes of Sheepe, swimming upon the Waters dead,
which could by no means be recovered.

Many Gentlemen, Yeomen and others, had great
losses, of cattle, as Oxen, Hine, Bullockes, Horses,
Colts, Sheepe, Swine, Pay not so much as their poul-
try about their houses, but all were overtwhelmed and
drowned, by these mercuriall Waters: Many men that
were rich in the morning when they rose out of their
beds, were made poore before none the same day: such
are the Judgements of the Almighty God, who is the
geuer of all good things: who can and will dispose of
them againe at all times, according to his goodwill and
pleasure, whensoever it shall seeme best vnto him.
Many others likewise, had their habitations or dwel-
ling houses all carreyed away in a short time, and had
not a place left them, so much as to shewbe them-
selues in.

Moreover, many that had great store of Cozne and
Crayne, in their Barmes and Corners in the morning
had not within five houres space afterwarde, so much
as one Crayne to make them bread withall: Neither
had they so much left as a Locke of Hay or Straw to
feede their cattell which were left: Such was the
great misery they suffered by the fury of this wa-
try Element, from which like, god Lord I beseech him
of his infinite mercy and goodnes to deliuer vs all.

The names of some of the Townes and Villages
which suffered great harmes and losses hereby were
these. (Viz.)

Bristol and Aust, this Aust is a village or
towne some 8. miles distant from Bristol vpon
the Beacron heath where all people are fer-
ried over that come out of Wales into these
partes of Gloucester and Sommer set (hills)

All the countries along on both the sides of the Ri-
uer of Seauerne, from Gloucester to Bristol, which is a-
bout some 10. miles was all ouerflowed, in some places
6. miles ouer, in some places more, in some lesse.

Moreover, all of the most parts, of the Wiltshires, be-
tweene Gloucester and Bristol, were all forcibly carried
away with the Waters: besides many goodly buildings
thereabouts much defaced, and many of them car-
ried quite away: besides many other great losses of all kinds
of Coyne and Grayne, and cattle that were then lost.

At Aust, many passengers that are ferried thur
there now, are faine to be guided by guides, all along
the Canies, where the water still remaineth for the
space of 3. or 4. miles, or else they wilbe in great dan-
ger of Drowning, the Water lyeth as yet so deepe
there.

Many dead Carthasses, both there, and in many o-
ther places, of the country, are daily found floating
vpon the Waters, and as yet cannot be knowen who
they are, or what number of persons are drowned, by
reason of the same Waters, which as yet in many
places remaine very deepe: so great was the spoyl that
these mercilesse Elementes there wrought and made.

In Bristol was much harme done, by the ouerflow-
ing of the Waters, but not so much as in other places,
many Cellars and Ware-houses, where great Roze of
Marchandise was in, (as Wine, Salt, hops, Spices,
and other such like Ware) were all spoyled. And the
people of the Towne were enforced to be carried in
Boates, by and vpon the said Cittle about their
business in the fayne time there.

Vpon the other side of the River of Seauerne, to-
wardes a Towne called Chepstow, vpon the lower
groundes, was much harme done, by the violence of
the Water.

There was in Chepstow a woman drowned in her
bed:

bed: and also a Gale, by the like in those parts. Also, all along the same coastes, by to Gold-dyft, Matherne, Callicot-Moores, Redrift, Newport, Cardiffe, Cowbridge, Swanley, Laugheme, Llanstephan, and others other places, of Glamorgan-shire, Munmoth-shire, Carmarthen-shire, and Cardigan-shire: many great harmes were there done, and the Waters raged so furiously, and with such great vehemencie, that it is supposed that in those partes, there cannot be so few persons drowned as 500. both Men, Women and Children, besides the losse of abundance of all kinde of Coyne and Grain: together with their Hay, and other provision which they had made for their Cattle.

Moreover, there were in the places afoze mentioned, many thousandes of Cattle, which were feeding in the lowe Meades, drowned and overtwhelmed with the violence of the furious Waters: as also, many young Beastes, Horses, Sheepe, Swine, and such like, the number is deemed infinit: yea, and not so much as Carkies, Hens, Geese, Duckes, and other Poultry about their houses, could once escape away, the Waves of the Sea so overtwhelmed them.

And that which is more strange: There are not now found onely floating upon the waters still remaining, the dead Carcasses of many men women and children: But also an abundance of all kinde of wilde Beastes, as Foxes, Hares, Conyes, Cats, Hounds and such like: some of them swimming one upon an others backs, thinking to have saved themselves thereby, but all was in vaine: such was the force of the waters that over-pressed them.

In a place in Munmoth-shire, there was a woman went to milke her kine in the morning, but before she had fully ended her business, the vehementie of the waters increased, and so suddenly environed her about, that she could not escape thence, but was entangled so much with

by to the top of an high Banke to save her selfe, which she did with much adoe, where she was constrained to abide all that day and night, untill 8 of the clocke in the next morning, in great distresse, what with the coldnes of the ayre and waters: and what with other Accidents that there hapned vnto her. She had bin like there to have perished: had not the Almighty God of his infinit mercy and goodnes, preserved her, from such great perills and daungers, which were likely there to ensue vnto her.

But there placing her selfe for saueguard of her life as aforesaid, having none other refuge to fly vnto: the Waters in such violent sort had so pursued her, that there was but a small distance of ground left unconquered with Waters, for her to abide upon: Where she remained most pittypfully lamenting the great danger of life that she was then in, expecting every minute of an houre, to be overwhelmed with those merclesse Waters: But the Almighty God, who is the Creator of all good things, when he thought mete, sent his holy Angell to command the Waters to cease their fury: and so returne into their accustomed bounds againe, where by according to his most blessed will and pleasure she was then preserved.

In the meane space, during the continuance of her abode there, diuers of her friends practised all the means they could to recover her, but could not, the Waters were of such a daupenes about her, and Boates they had none, in all those partes to succour her, such was their want in this distress, that many perished through the want thereof.

There was a Gentleman of worth, dwelling nere vnto the place where she was, who caused a goodly Selding to be saddled, and set a man vpon the backe of him, thinking to have fetcht her away, but such were the daupenes of the waters, that he durst not adventure

the same repyed.

At last some of his friends, deuised a deuise, and tyed two broad trougbes the one to the other, (such as in these countreys they vse to salt Bacon in) and put therein two lustie strong men, who with long Bowles (stirring these trougbes (as if they had bin Boates) made great shift to come to her, and so by this meanes, through Gods good helpe she was then saued.

But now (gentle Reader) marks what befell, at this time, of the strangenes of other creatures: Whom the Waters had violently oppressed: for the two men which toke vpon them to fetch away the Maide from the top of the Banks, can truely witness the same as well as her selfe to be true, for they beheld the same with their Eyes.

The Hill or Banke where the Maide abode all that space, was all so canted ouer, with wilde Beastes, and Vermin, that came thither to seeke for succour, that she had much adoe to saue her selfe, from taking of hurt by them: and much a doe she had to keepe them from creeping vpon and about her, she was not so much in danger of the Water on the one side: as she was troubled with these Vermin on the other side.

The Beastes and Vermin that were there were these. (Viz)

Dogs, Cats, Poules, Foxes, Hares, Conyes, pea and not so much, as Spies and Rats: but were there in abundance, and that which is more strange: The one of them neuer once offered to annoy the other: although they were deadly enemies by Nature the one to another: Yet in this danger of life, they not once offered to expresse their naturall enmie: But in a gentle sort, they freely enjoyed the libertie of life, which in mine opinion, was a most wonderfull wayke, in Nature.

But now let vs leaue this matter touching this

Walds, besides the other accidentes before rehearsed and let vs returne againe to these watry miseries: The counties of Glamorgan, Carmarthen and Cardigan, and many other places in South-wales, haue likewise borne the heauy burden, of Gods wrath herein: And many were the liues of them that were lost throught this watery Destruction:

Many there were which fled into the tops of high trees, and there were enforced to abide some thre daies, some more, and some lesse, without any victuals at all, there suffering much colde besides many other calamities, and some of them in such sort, that throught ouer-much hunger and colde, some of them fell downe againe out of the Trees, and so were like to perish, for want of succour. Other some, late in the tops of high Trees as aforesaid, beholding their wiues, children, and seruants, swimming (remedies of all succour) in the Waters.

Other some sitting in the tops of Trees might beholde their houses overflowne with the Waters: some their houses carped quite away; and no signe or token left there of them.

Many of them might see, as they stood vpon the tops of high Hilles, their Cattle perish, and could not tell how to succour them, and their Barnes, with all their store of Corne and Graine quite consumed, which was no small grieve vnto them,

Many people and Cattle in diuers places of those Countreys, might haue bene saved in time, if that the cuntreys had bene any thing like furnished with boates or other provision fit for such a sudden Accident, as this was, which as God himselfe knoweth, was little expected of them, to haue fallen so suddenly vpon them.

But seeing the cuntreys were so vnfurnished with Boates much harme was done, to the bitter vndowing of many thousandes.

Some fled into the tops of Churches and Steeples,

to save themselves, from whence they might behold, themselves deprived aswell of all their substance, as also of all their toys, which they had before received in their wines and Childzen. Also whole Rakes of Pease, Beanes, Dates, and other grains were sene a far of, to float upon the Water to and fro, in the Countreys as if they had bin ships upon the Seas.

The foundations of many Churches and houses, were in a manner decayed, and some caried quite away, as in Cardiffe, in the countie of Glamorgan there was a great part of the Church next the Water side eaten downe, with the Water, many houses and Gar dens there, which were nere the water side, were all overflowen, and much harms done.

Divers other Churches lie hidden in the Waters, and some of them the tops are to be sene: and other some, nothing at all to be sene, but the very tops of the Stables, and of some of them nothing at all, neyther steeple nor nothing else. Also many schales of young schollers, in many places of those countreys, stood in great perplexitie, some of them adventuring home to their parents were drowned by the way: Other some staying behinde in in Churches, did climbe up to the tops of Stables, where they were very nere sturued to death for want of food and fire: many by the help of boards and plankes of Wood, swam to dry land and so were preserved from untimely Death, Many had Boates brought them, some 10. miles, some 15. some 20. where there was never sene any Boates before.

Thus God suffered many of them to escape his just wrath, in hope of their amendment of life: Some men that were riding on the high waves were overtaken with these merciless Waters, and were drowned.

And againe many have bin most strangely preserved.

As for example, there was in the Countie of Glamorgan, a man both blind and beprisen and one which had

had not bin able to stand upon his legs in ten yeares his
 soze, he had his poore cottage broken downe by the force
 of the Waters, and himselfe, Wed and all caried into
 the open fieldes, where being ready to sinke, and at the
 point to take a resting place, two fathoms deepe under
 the Waters: his hand by chance catcht holde of the
 Rafter of an house swimming by the fiercesse, of the
 Windes, then blowing Easterly he was dyversified
 by to the Land, and so escaped.

Also in an other place, there was a man Child of the
 age, of 5. or 6. yeares, which was kept swimming, for
 the space of two houres, above the Waters, by reason
 that his long Coates lay spread upon the tops of the wa-
 ters, and being at last, at the very point to sinke:
 there came by chance by, (floating upon the tops of the
 Waters,) a fat Weather that was dead, very full of
 Oyl: The poore distressed Child perceiuing this good
 meanes of recoverie, caught fast hold on the Weathers
 Oyl, and likewise with the winde he was dyven to
 dry land, and so saved.

There was also in the County of Carmarthen, a
 ybung Woman, who had foure small Children, and
 not one of them able to helpe it selfe: And the Wea-
 ther then seeing the furyes of the Waters to be so vio-
 lent to ceaze upon her, threatening the Destruction of
 her selfe and her small Children, (and as a Romans
 wit is ever ready in extremities) she took along
 Trough, wherein she was wont to make her bzeanin,
 and therein placed her selfe, and her foure Children:
 And so putting themselves to the merces of the Wa-
 ters, they were all by that meanes dyven to the dry
 land, and by Gods good providence thereby they were
 all saved.

Many moze there were that through the hand by
 woorkes of God were preserved from this violent death
 of Drowning, some on the backs of dead Cattle:

some by the broken planks: Some by cleaving of
Trees: Some by remaining in the tops of high Stee-
ples and Churches, other some by making of spades
away with shaft-holes, and some by the meanes of
Boates, sent out by their friends to succour them:
but there were not so many so strangely saved, but
there were as many in number as strangely
drowned.

The lowe Parishes and Fenny groundes, nere
Barkstable in the Countie of Devon were overflowed,
so farre out, and in such outrageous sort, that the coun-
trei all along to Bridgewater, was greatly distressed
thereby, and much hurt there done: it is a most pitifull
sight to beholde what numbers of fat Oxen were there
drowned: what flocks of Sheepe, what herdes of
Hens, have there bin lost, and drowned in these ou-
trageous Waters: there is little now remaining there,
to be seene, but huge Waters like to the maine Ocean:
The tops of Churches and Steeples like to the tops of
Rockes in the Sea, Great Rokes of fodder for cattle,
are floating like Ships vpon the Waters, and dead
Beastes swimming thereon: Now past saving on the
same, though the rigour of this Element of Water:
The tops of Trees, a man may beholde remaigning a-
bout the Waters, vpon whose Bzanches, multi-
tudes of all kinds of Turkeys, Hens, and other such
like Poultry were faine to fly vp into the Trees to save
their liues, where many of them perished to death, for
want of refuge, not being able to fly to dry land for
succour, by reason of their weakenes.

This mercyleffe Water breaking into the bosome
of the firme Land, hath proued a fearefull punish-
ment, as well to all other lining Creatures: as al-
so to all Mankind: Which if it had not blinne so,
the mercifull promise of God, at the last dissolution
of the World, by Water, by the signe of the Raine,
bolue,

howe, which is still shewed vs: wee might haue be-
rily beleaued, this time had bin the very houre of
Christ his comming: From which Element
of Water, extended towards vs in this
fearefull manner, god Lozd deliuer
vs all. Amen.

(.)

FINIS.

By William Jones of Vake Gent.

